

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

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R 070947Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0406

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0592

.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SEDU, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENCY

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0386

1. UPON RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE, CONSUL GENERAL LEARNED NO RPT NO NEW RECTOR (PRESIDENT) OF ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY HAS YET BEEN APPOINTED (REFTEL) ALTHOUGH FORMER RECTOR, DR. LUTFI DEWIDAR, RETIRED AS SCHEDULED AUGUST 31.

2. SENIOR VICE-RECTOR (AND ASPIRANT FOR PRESIDENCY) DR. HASSAN KIRAH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN LOCAL PRESS IN RECENT DAYS AS CHAIRING UNIVERSITY COUNCIL SESSIONS AND IN NEWS ITEM OCTOBER 5 WAS CALLED "PRESIDENT AD INTERIM."

3. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE FACULTY SOURCE, KIRAH'S ACTION IN PUBLICLY OFFERING TO RESIGN AND BY IMPLICATION CRITICIZING EDUCATION MINISTER'S "ILLEGALITY" IN EXTENDING DEWIDAR APPOINTMENT (ALEXANDRIA 0323), HAS IRRITATED THAT MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH GOE OFFICIALS SO THAT THEY ARE DELAYING FINAL DECISION ON NEW RECTOR.

4. SAME SOURCE SAYS KIRAH WILL EVENTUALLY BE NAMED. OTHER FRONT RUNNER (DEAN HILMY OF ENGINEERING SCHOOL, REFTEL) IS NOW SAID TO BE UNINTERESTED IN JOB SINCE HE HAS BEEN BUILDING LUCRATIVE CONSULTING PRACTICE (PRIMARILY TO GULF STATES) THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE IF BURDENED WITH ENTIRE UNIVERSITY
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ADMINISTRATION.

5. LOCAL GOSSIP THAT FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER BADRAN OSMAN, NOW ALSO ENGINEERING SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER, IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR TOP JOB IS DISCOUNTED FOR SAME REASONS.

6. OTHER RUMORED CANDIDATES ARE DEAN MOHAMED ZAKI AL ASHMAWI OF ARTS AND LETTERS FACULTY AND ALI REDA, DEAN OF MEDECINE.

7. MEANWHILE UNIVERSITY YEAR IS COMMENCING WITH FACULTY STILL RESTLESS AND A LITTLE IRRITATED OVER GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THIS PROBLEM.

CHASE

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